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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09765.995	01/19/2001	David Alumot	002187 USA/C03/PDC/WF/DB	1810
32588	7590	04/13/2004		EXAMINER
APPLIED MATERIALS, INC. 2881 SCOTT BLVD. M/S 2061 SANTA CLARA, CA 95050			DASTOURI, MEHRDAD	
			ART UNIT 2623	PAPER NUMBER 18
			DATE MAILED: 04/13/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No. 09/765,995	Applicant(s) ALUMOT ET AL.
	Examiner Mehrdad Dastouri	Art Unit 2623

-The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -

THE REPLY FILED 22 March 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b])

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

- 1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
- 2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

- 3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
- 4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
- 5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: *Please see attached.*
- 6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
- 7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 96-105.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

- 8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

- 9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

- 10. Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed March 22, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Applicants argue in essence that the necessary modifications to Ohtombe are not suggested by Yamashita , and vice versa. Applicants further argue that Ohtombe does not need the reference signal or the comparator calculating a difference between inspection signals and reference signals in Yamashita.

The Examiner disagrees and indicates that Ohtombe may not need the Yamashita's teachings concerning reference signal or the comparator because these limitations are expressly taught by Ohtombe (Figures 1 and 3; Column 3, Lines 37-53). However, calculating a difference between inspection signals (A/D converter 41 output signal) and reference signals (Threshold values stored in memory 43) are not explicitly disclosed by Ohtombe.

The teachings of Yamashita have been merely cited to further identifying the abstract concept corresponding to the details of calculating a difference between an inspection signal and a reference signal. Consequently, incorporation of the Yamashita comparator into the Ohtombe apparatus would not substantially change the principle of operation of the references and would not substantially redesign the construction of the references.

The rationale to modify or combine the prior art does not have to be expressly stated in the prior art; the rationale may be expressly or impliedly contained in the prior art or it may be reasoned from knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in

the art, established scientific principles, or legal precedent established by prior case law. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehrdad Dastouri whose telephone number is (703) 305-2438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on (703) 308-6604. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MEHRDAD DASTOURI
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Mehrdad Dastouri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2623
April 10, 2004